UNITED
NATIONS

CEDAW

Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women

Distr.
LIMITED

CEDAW/C/1992/L.1/Add.14
29 January 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Eleventh session
New York, 20-31 January 1992
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Addendum

IV. WAYS AND MEANS OF EXPEDITING THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

1. At its 197th meeting, on January 24, the Committee discussed certain issues and trends that had emerged from its examination of States parties' reports and which it thought deserved attention.

2. Members noted the increase in the numbers of female-headed households, a growing trend in many States parties. The family, and societies as a whole, seemed to be undergoing restructuring. There were economic causes, women were increasingly taking up economic responsibility for the household and economic independence led women to develop a sense of independence in other fields. An additional factor was seen in the increase of women's self-esteem. Members of the Committee felt that, in both developing and developed countries, women were now refusing certain kinds of marriages, for example, marriages where men abstained from sharing family life or did not assume certain economic responsibilities or denied their spouse affection and respect. Another factor noted by members was the greater freedom of the family and the fact that the law increasingly recognized changes in the structure of the family.

3. The Committee thought that research was needed on the causes and the long-term effect of the development of female-headed households, on whether there would be changes in the mentality and behaviour of the generation growing up in female-headed families and whether discrimination and stereotypes would be reduced. Research would also have to be conducted to explore the underlying hypothesis of existing fiscal rules, lower female salaries and educational systems and their possible negative impacts on

families differing from the traditional model. Members of the Committee noted that research on female-headed households could be a part of the analysis of article 16 to be carried out at its next session. That work could also serve as a basis for the Committee's recommendations for the International Year of the Family and the World Conference on Women (1995).

4. As a matter of strategy, the Committee discussed the opportunity to involve more men in action for the promotion of gender equality. Action for equality implied not only consciousness-raising among women, but also changes in male attitudes and duties. More precisely, obtaining the support of men in influential decision-making positions could ensure that required changes would be adopted in national parliaments, for example. Members of the Committee considered the possibility of having a quota of men on the Committee but agreed that such a reform should not be undertaken until other treaty bodies had quotas for women.

5. Members of the Committee recalled a decision that the Committee had taken at its tenth session, i.e. to train women for the participation in the 1995 World Conference and members should make suggestions at its eleventh session for the Committee's contribution to the World Conference. One member noted that she had sent a proposal through the secretariat to the Chairperson of the Committee.

6. The Committee asked its Chairperson, when taking part in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights, to raise the question of the validity and the legal effect of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the context of reservations to all international human rights instruments. The aim should be to bring the question of reservations to the attention of the World Conference on Human Rights in order to strengthen the implementation of the Conventions.

7. Noting the many reservations made by a great number of States parties for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Committee agreed at its 198th meeting to recommend to the States parties to the Convention to reconsider the question of reservations with the aim that many would be withdrawn. A general recommendation concerning reservations is contained in ...

V. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT OF WORKING GROUP I: CONSIDERATION OF THE WORK OF THE PRE-SESSION WORKING GROUP

8. At its 201st and 203rd meetings, the Committee discussed the report of Working Group I.

9. The Committee commended the work carried out by the pre-session working group, and recommended that the pre-session working group and its present format be adopted for the next session.

10. The Committee, recalling its previous decisions to designate one member from each region to participate in the pre-session working group, nominated the members and alternates for the group for 1993 as follows:

Tatiana Nikolaeva (Russian Federation) and Zagorka Ilic (Yugoslavia) as alternate

Ivanka Corti (Italy) and Carlota Bustelo Garcia del Real (Spain) as alternate

Charlotte Abaka (Ghana) and Kissem Walla-Tchangai (Togo) as alternate

Shangzhen Lin (China) and Ryoko Akamatsu (Japan) as alternate

Dora Gladys Nancy Bravo Nuñez de Ramsey (Ecuador) and Norma Monica Forde (Barbados) as alternate

VI. DATES AND DURATION OF THE TWELFTH SESSION

11. The Committee, having taken note of the financial implications involved, decided to request the holding of 2 two-week sessions during 1993 or, alternatively, an extended session of three weeks' duration in order to complete consideration of the backlog of initial and second periodic reports, which up to the end of the session were 12 and 10 respectively, in addition to 7 third periodic reports. Bearing in mind that 111 States had now become parties to the Convention, a large number of reports were expected to be submitted during the year. The first session (or the extended session) would be preceded by a one-week session of the pre-session working group to prepare the issues and questions for consideration of second and third periodic reports.

12. If approval was given for an extended session of three weeks, the Committee agreed that the dates for convening its twelfth session would be from 18 January to 5 February 1993, to be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna, and the pre-session working group would meet from 11 to 15 January 1993.

13. If approval was given for two sessions during 1993, the Committee agreed that the dates for convening the first part of the twelfth session would be 18 to 29 January 1993, and the pre-session working group would meet from 11 to 15 January 1993. The dates for convening the second part of the session would be 30 August to 10 September, or 6 September to 17 September 1993, subject to the time-table of the secretariat and availability of conference services.

VII. REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE TWELFTH SESSION

14. The Committee decided to consider during the usual two-week session a total of eight reports: four initial reports, four second periodic reports, and one third periodic report. It decided that reports would be selected for consideration on the basis of the date on which they had been received. In the event that a State party did not wish to present a report, the secretariat was authorized to select another State party from the reserve list, also in the order of the date on which it had been received. Accordingly, the following list of initial, second and third periodic reports was retained:

Initial reports	Second periodic reports	Third periodic reports
Romania	Nicaragua	Sweden
Yemen	Yemen	
(The initial and second periodic reports of Yemen to be considered together)		
Guyana	Republic of Korea	Rwanda as reserve
Iraq	Peru	
Madagascar and Kenya as reserves	Bangladesh France and United Kingdom as reserves	

15. The Committee decided that, should a three-week session be granted for its twelfth session in 1993, a total of six initial, six second periodic and two third periodic reports would be considered. They comprised the reports listed above with the addition of the following:

Initial reports	Second periodic reports	Third periodic reports
Kenya	France	Rwanda
Madagascar	United Kingdom	Norway as reserve
Zambia and Guatemala as reserves	Senegal as reserve	

16. The Committee decided that, should 2 two-week sessions be granted for its twelfth session in 1993, a total of four initial, four second periodic and one third periodic reports would be considered at each of the two sessions. Reports to be considered at the second session were as follows:

Initial reports	Second periodic reports	Third periodic reports
Kenya Madagascar Zambia Guatemala Chile and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as reserves	First received by the secretariat with one other as reserve	Norway Hungary as reserve

VIII. CONTRIBUTION OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS 1993

17. The Committee adopted the following suggestion concerning the World Conference on Human Rights:

Suggestion 3

World Conference on Human Rights 1993

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women requests that the question of the equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women be fully reflected in the agenda of the Conference and, in particular, the close relationship between the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and those guaranteed under the other international human rights instruments.

Such a theme would emphasize that women's equality is a significant human rights issue and, to this end, attention should be given to the extent to which this issue has been addressed effectively by the implementation methods and mechanisms under human rights covenants and conventions.

The Committee requests that the Secretary-General ensures that, as far as possible, documentation prepared for the World Conference on Human Rights according to General Assembly resolution 46/116, paragraph 5 (a), include a gender perspective.

The Committee suggests that the Secretary-General of the United Nations take steps to initiate the translation of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Centre for Human Rights into all official United Nations languages as soon as possible and distribute it to all States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Committee suggests that the Secretary-General prepare a publication on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the work of the Committee in like manner as the Fact Sheets for other human rights instruments and bodies.